

The Address—Mr. Churchill

I should like to quote the words of the Prime Minister as they appear at page 49 of *Hansard*:

I hope that the house is able to take action before any summer adjournment on certain matters which I shall mention. The debate on the address has to be disposed of.

That will take ten days when we count the two opening days.

We must have approval of the main estimates—

Under the allocation of time rule that will take 30 days.

—the budget has to be introduced and debated.

That will be another six days.

Certain bills I think ought to be dealt with before any summer recess.

He listed those. In addition there are the supply motions, normally four. That will take eight days. How much time do we allow for each bill? Do we allow a half a day, one day or two days? On the average over the years two days are spent on a bill. On that basis 14 days would be spent on the seven bills. These figures total close to 70 sitting days.

So there you are; no summer adjournment, no centennial celebrations for the members of parliament. We will stay here and the Prime Minister will be off with the visitors who will be here from foreign countries. He will be at Expo and all across the country. The cabinet members will be travelling all across this country, and while they are doing so they will be complaining that parliament is not getting on with its business. This is the position in which we find ourselves during this centennial session.

Last winter we were told that this session would start early in the spring, that no legislation would be introduced and that we would have a reasonable summer adjournment because of the special nature of this year. We were told that then in the fall we would get down to business and complete the necessary work. But the Prime Minister has set the pattern. We are here to stay. If we want to get away for the summer, we must get rid of the speech from the throne. We must finish the debate.

Someone over there claps. He is a backbencher; he has nothing to contribute to the house. He does not want to speak, and we can do without him. So we must finish the speech from the throne speech debate today. We do not need a debate on the budget; just listen to the presentation given by the Minister of Finance, let the press commentators and the editors study it overnight and then let the

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newspaper, radio and press commentators tell us what is good and bad in it.

What about the supply motions? Why have four? The suggestion is that we really do not want to bring up the dairy problem, the problems of the farmers, and have votes on these matters. Oh, no; just ignore that; bring in the estimates of 22 departments in one fell swoop. Don't take 28 or 30 days to discuss them department by department; just chop it all off in seven days. After all, you can trust this government. You know, they just take the money from you and spend it. We are given to understand by this government that the people are not interested in how this money is spent or whether it is carelessly spent. So it is not necessary to spend any time discussing either the estimates or the bills. The Prime Minister in effect is suggesting that if we want a summer recess these bills which have been carefully prepared will be placed in front of us and all we need to do is rubberstamp them and let them go through.

Mr. Diefenbaker: That is what the hon. member for York East (Mr. Otto) says. He says the backbencher in the Liberal party is nothing but a puppet.

• (12:10 p.m.)

Mr. Churchill: Yes, rubberstamp the bills. Every major bill introduced by the Liberal party during the last four years has been subject to amendment in this house because of careless drafting and careless preparation. We are now told in effect by the Prime Minister, let us speed things up by not taking time to discuss the legislation and just rubberstamp it. That is the situation.

If this house is to adjourn at the end of June, for example, some telescoping of the business of the house must happen. If members take a different point of view from that of the government then the government will say it is sorry but we will have to continue through July and August because we must press on with the business of the country. That is the situation that faces us and we might just as well realize it right now.

I suggest that by just rubberstamping government proposals we will turn this institution into a legislative sausage machine. I think that is fatally wrong and shows bad organization on the part of this government which thinks nothing out in advance. Where is the government house leader today? He is not here. Did he advise the Prime Minister that this course should be followed? Is he the man who is to head up the committee on